

Fort Huachuca

Boundaries:

Fort Huachuca is located west of Sierra Vista, in southeastern Arizona on the western flank of the San Pedro River Valley and consists of an irregularly shaped area of 115 square miles bisected by Arizona State Highway 90.

Site History:

- Fort Huachuca has been an active U.S. Army Post since 1877. The current primary mission is intelligence training and activities involving electronic and communication signals.
- In July 1991, ADEQ issued Compliance Order D-10-91 regarding reported incidents of soil contamination. The order was later withdrawn and replaced by two consent orders. The Hazardous Waste Consent agreement, D-10-91, was signed in September 1994. Initial environmental assessment identified 36 sites for further investigation under the Department of Defense Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The Underground Storage Tank (UST) Consent agreement, L-58-96, signed in June 1996 was related to closure of USTs. Fort Huachuca is not a Federal Superfund site and not on the National Priority List (NPL). Funding for the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup comes from the Army IRP.
- Remedial investigation resulted in removal actions at several sites including the Tank Trail Dump Site FTHU-64, TMP Automatic Washrack-FTHU-68, TMP Aboveground Waste Oil Tank FTHU-69, Steam Cleaning Facility FTHU-70, Building #30033 Pesticide Mix-FTHU-74, and the AMSA Washrack FTHU-41 and 75. Confirmation sampling showed that none of the contaminant concentrations detected exceeded the current Soil Remediation Levels (SRLs) or any ADEQ regulations.
- Two decision documents have been issued closing out a total of ten IRP sites. A decision document closing out six sites was signed off in October 2000. Another decision document was signed by ADEQ in March 2002 closing out four sites: the Libby Army Airfield Fire Training Area-FTHU-52, Vehicle Paint Booth-FTHU-66, and the TMP Drum Storage Area-FTHU-67.
- Only two sites identified under the IRP, the South Range Landfill and the East Range Mine Shaft, remain under long term monitoring. The South Range Landfill is located along Garden Canyon Road in the southern portion of the installation. The South Range consists of two landfills that were used intermittently from 1940 to 1975. It is believed that while in use, pesticides and herbicides were deposited in the landfills. Two leachate wells were drilled in early 1992 and have been sampled off and on since. An investigation into the groundwater began with the installation of one groundwater monitoring well in September 1999, two in February 2001, and a fourth in March 2002. Sampling of the

groundwater has not detected contaminants above the Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS).

- The East Range Mine Shaft is located in a remote area of the East Range. The shaft is believed to be approximately 200 feet deep and is now filled to grade with soil. A polyethylene liner was placed over the Mine Shaft in November 2000 and covered by 18 inches of dirt. Material believed to be dumped into the shaft includes, but is not limited to, petroleum-based fuels, small aircraft/drone bodies and unexploded munitions. Waste was disposed of by depositing material into the shaft and burning it by adding gasoline and diesel fuel, until the practice was stopped in about 1980. Because of the potential for waste-derived contaminants to migrate to the regional aquifer, three groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the site.

Site Status:

- The South Range Landfill is being monitored by three groundwater monitoring wells and two leachate wells. The wells are sampled on an annual basis. No contaminants above Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AQWS) have been detected in recent sampling of the wells. Groundwater monitoring well MW-4 was installed in March 2002 to aid in determining the direction of groundwater flow. Unfortunately, MW-4 was placed in a perched or confined aquifer and cannot be used to determine groundwater flow direction. The well was sampled and there were no detections above the AWQS.
- The East Range Mine Shaft is being monitored by three groundwater monitoring wells on an annual basis. The Mine Shaft has been covered by a polyethylene liner and 18 inches of soil. No detections of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been reported in groundwater samples from this site at any time during the monitoring programs.

Site Hydrogeology:

- Fort Huachuca Army post lies on the west side of the San Pedro River Valley Basin. The basin is formed by northwest-trending mountain blocks, and bounded to the west by the Huachuca Mountains.
- Alluvial deposits from the basin are derived from the adjacent mountains and are generally composed of a mixture of conglomerate, sandstone, gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The basin fill has a thickness up to 350 feet, subdivided into upper and lower units, and overlies the Pantano Formation. The Pantano Formation comprises well-cemented gravel, conglomerate, sandstone and siltstone and has a very low permeability.
- The regional aquifer is reported by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) to be approximately 300-500 feet below the land surface. The general direction of regional groundwater flow is to the east toward the San Pedro River.

Contaminants:

Contaminants of concern include organochlorine pesticides, several metals, several volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and petroleum hydrocarbons. Contaminants of concern may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

There are no known health risks from this site.

Community Involvement Activities:

No community involvement activities are planned at this time.

Information Repositories:

Interested parties can review site information at the ADEQ main office located at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix. Site information is available for review Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To arrange for a time to review the public site file, please call the ADEQ Records Center (602) 771-4378 or (800) 234-5677 (Arizona toll free).

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*In Arizona, but outside the Phoenix area, call toll-free at (800) 234-5677.